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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
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# Major News Releases and Speeches

**March 12 - March 19, 1982**

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# Speeches

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## **Remarks prepared for delivery by Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services Mary C. Jarratt, American School Food Service Association, Washington, D.C., March 15, 1982**

I want to begin by first thanking Louise Frolich for her kind invitation to speak here. I think it is important that we in the U.S. Department of Agriculture keep in touch with your organization, the American School Food Service Association, and I welcome this opportunity.

As you know, I make it a practice to meet with your legislative committee as often as I can.

Today I will begin by talking about the president's budget proposal and how it affects the child nutrition programs. I will also talk about offer versus serve and our expectations for that administrative procedure. And, I will discuss other steps we are taking to help the schools operate the programs with reduced funding for that administrative procedure.

Finally, I will take a quick look at some of the things you are doing at the local level to operate the programs more economically.

### **The Budget Proposal**

First, let's take a look at the administration's budget proposal for 1983. The proposed budget was presented to Congress by President Reagan on Feb. 9. In it, he outlined the administration's position on spending levels for the year and he also brought forward the concept of new federalism under which the states will begin to take greater responsibility in the operation and administration of programs.

Some of the fiscal year 1983 child nutrition proposals would be a beginning of the new federalism in that several of these programs would be turned over to the states. The total proposed funding for all child nutrition programs is set at \$3.191 billion dollars, which includes \$365 million for Section 32 commodities.



## **How Is School Lunch Affected?**

I would like to point out here that the largest of the child nutrition programs, school lunch, would be maintained without any appreciable reduction in funding. In fact, after you figure in the Consumer Price Index increase of next July 1, there will be an increase in funding for that program, from \$2.464 billion dollars in 1982 to about \$2.665 billion dollars in 1983. This amounts to an increase of a little over \$201 million dollars.

Under the administration's proposed budget, subsidies for school lunches will increase as follows: for a paid lunch, from 22.4 cents to 23.9 cents; for a reduced price lunch, from 82.3 cents to 90.2 cents; and for a free lunch, from 122.3 cents to 130.2 cents.

## **Why The Emphasis On School Lunch?**

We believe that the school lunch program is the cornerstone of the child nutrition programs, and we have made it the focus of our funding. Let me explain.

In the food assistance programs of the department, we want to give food stamps priority in our nutritional assistance for families, and we want to give school lunch priority in our nutritional assistance for children away from home. These are our priorities.

But, even though we are emphasizing school lunch, we still expect to provide states with a general nutrition assistance grant to accommodate the breakfast and child care programs. The grant is funded at \$488 million dollars. State officials will be able to use the monies for whatever nutrition programs they believe are most suitable and responsive to the needs of their localities.

Because 94 percent of the participants in the milk program are non-needy, we are proposing to eliminate it. And, since the summer food program is not exclusively targeted to the needy, we are proposing its elimination, too. However, if state officials want, they may use grant monies to operate a special milk program or a summer food program, or any nutrition program they decide.

The introduction of these grants will considerably reduce the federal regulatory burden states carry. Under the new grants, the states will operate the programs under their own guidelines, not by rules from Washington.



## **Need To Reduce Costs**

As I've pointed out, we have held the line and even increased funding in the budget proposals for school lunch in 1983. However, there have been reductions in school lunch funds in the last two years, and in the 1981 Reconciliation Act, Congress directed USDA to look at ways to reduce the cost of the lunch program. The meal pattern change, which we proposed last September, was one way to reduce costs. That proposal was not well received and we withdrew it.

Tomorrow we will publish proposed regulations on offer versus serve in elementary schools. We believe these regulations have the potential for cost savings to meet the congressional mandate.

## **Offer Versus Serve**

Currently, offer vs. serve is required in senior high schools and is optional for junior high and mid-level schools. The regulations to be published tomorrow would extend the option to all grade levels. Furthermore, it would modify the rule itself. Let me explain.

As you know, when we say "offer vs. serve," we mean a serving system under which a child is offered all five items of a school lunch, but the child is only required to accept full portions of three items.

The proposed regulations would modify that rule.

Under the proposed regulations, school food authorities would still allow senior high students to decline as many as two items; but in grades below the senior high level, school food authorities would be permitted to determine whether students may decline up to two items or only one item. And further, when a student has declined a full portion of an item, schools at all grade levels may offer a smaller portion of the item.

Offer vs. serve has reduced plate waste significantly at the same time it has maintained student consumption of a wide variety of nutrients, and it has reduced program costs. The goal of the lunch program is still to provide one-third of a student's recommended dietary allowances (RDA) and students are encouraged to choose all five food items. However, offer vs. serve means students are not forced to take food that they do not intend to consume.



## **History Of Offer Vs. Serve**

In 1975, legislation was enacted which allowed senior high schools to initiate the offer vs. serve procedure. USDA regulations went into effect the following year.

Then, in November 1977, legislation extended the provision to students in junior high and middle schools, when approved at the local level. These regulations were published in June 1978.

The 1981 Omnibus Reconciliation Act extended the offer vs. serve option to all grade levels.

## **Two National Surveys**

After passage of the 1981 Reconciliation Act, schools were told that they could implement the offer vs. serve provision at the elementary level, even before regulations had been published. In December 1981 we took a survey of a nationally representative sample of schools and we found that 37 percent of the elementary schools had implemented the offer vs. serve option. Thus, of approximately 51,000 elementary schools in the country, 19,000 had begun the system since Oct. 1, 1981.

The survey showed that when the offer vs. serve option was available at the elementary level, participation increased 3 percent.

To supplement the information we collected last December, we recently conducted an informal poll throughout the nation to assess the offer vs. serve option in elementary schools. Some 633 elementary schools which were using offer vs. serve were contacted in the poll, which was completed in February.

The acceptance of the program was very favorable. Rating the program as good were 95 percent of the students, 90 percent of the parents, and 80 percent of the food service workers.

Since implementation of the program, plate waste was described as being reduced significantly by the overwhelming majority of the respondents. A majority of the schools felt that food costs were reduced by an average of four to five cents because of the reduction in plate waste.

In reading over the comments from those who participated in the second survey, one comment that I particularly noticed was that of a food service director who said she is supportive of the plan, but who states that extra time is needed to retrain the kitchen helpers and to



explain the new system to the children. This is the same thing I discovered when I visited Texas in January. Gertrude Applebaum—the food service director in Corpus Christi and the president of ASFSA—told me that some of the principals in the Corpus Christi system were rather apprehensive about the new system at first; but she took the time to explain it fully to each principal in each school, and within a week, it was working well in her schools.

The moral of this story is that local school food authorities need to take the time to explain, in detail, how the system works to principals, children, teachers, school food service workers, and parents. If you do that, I believe the system will work.

### **Various Interpretations**

Since last Oct. 1, when offer vs. serve began to be used in elementary schools, many schools have made broad interpretations of it. I am sure they will continue to do so under the proposed regulations. In fact, the Department has encouraged schools to make a broad interpretation of offer vs. serve in order to best suit it to their own needs.

To illustrate what I mean, I will cite several interpretations.

— In New York, Liz Cagan serves three items with the fourth and fifth being, as desired, tasting portions. She says that often students come back for full portions after eating a taste portion.

— Gertrude Applebaum in Texas uses a straight offer vs. serve approach. That is, students can choose less than five items but they must take full portions of what they take.

— Shirley Watkins in Memphis has offer vs. serve with a strong nutrition education component for both parents and children.

— Dorothy Van Egmond-Pannell in Fairfax County, Virginia serves full portions. But she has a tasting table where she places bonus commodities such as turkey products, prunes, and cheese. Soon she will be able to add grapefruit juice to her tasting table.

All four of these ladies are here today and if you want to talk to them about offer vs. serve, I'm sure they would be happy to discuss it.



## **Results Of Offer Vs. Serve**

USDA's experience with offer vs. serve in high schools, junior high schools, and middle schools indicates that the schools will strive to plan menus that are both nutritious and that appeal to their students. Local food service workers are committed to serving nutritious meals because they care about the health and well-being of the children.

Indeed, a number of local school lunch directors have said that children eat more under offer vs. serve because they are learning that if you take food, you eat it.

And beyond this, we know that offer vs. serve results in significant cost savings and reduced plate waste.

## **Additional Activities**

Now I would like to turn your attention to some activities we have been engaged in that are beyond the provisions of the 1981 Reconciliation Act. These activities are designed to help states and school districts get more out of the agricultural commodities available to them.

### **— Processing Contracts**

We are currently writing a manual on processing contracts to assist school districts and state distributing agencies in better handling contracts for donated foods. There will be information on how to enter into contracts and how to review and monitor contracts. The manual will have specifications for certain end products; optimal yield for certain commodities; ideas for new products; and information on how to credit certain end products toward the meal requirement.

### **— Warehousing Study**

Since 1981, we have been actively involved in providing technical assistance for the warehousing and transportation of USDA commodities. To date, we have provided nine states with this assistance, and where our recommendations have been implemented, the states and localities have saved some \$1.3 million dollars. When all the recommendations are fully implemented, these states will achieve savings of \$10.5 million dollars.



We have just finished making recommendations to 5 additional states, and should these recommendations be totally implemented, the states expect to save an additional \$4.5 million dollars.

In providing this assistance, we utilize highly qualified specialists from industry. They work closely with Washington, the FNS regional offices, and the states to identify duplication of efforts. They make recommendations on how to improve productivity and develop cost saving consolidations.

### **— Commodities Distribution Study**

We are currently working on a demonstration project to test alternatives to the commodity distribution program. The purpose of the study is to determine if there is a more cost effective, and yet administratively feasible, way to operate the commodity donation program. We're also looking at the question of how alternatives to the existing program would affect the cost of serving meals in schools.

The project is expected to start July 1 and will take at least two years. In it, we will test three alternatives.

In the first alternative, 30 participating school food authorities are provided with cash equal to the value of commodities to which they would have been entitled under the current program.

In the second alternative, we will give 30 participating school food authorities letters of credit allowing the local purchase of specific food items.

In the third alternative, 30 school food authorities will act as control sites and will operate under the current system.

We began training the participating school districts Feb. 22.

### **What The Schools Are Doing**

In the area of reducing operating costs, I would like to say that the schools themselves have made savings. They have reduced the amount of labor used, maintained better portion control, eliminated desserts from meal patterns, increased use of a la carte to subsidize operation costs, and limited menus to known student preferences.

From these actions, we can see that schools can, and have, made economies on their own.



## **Conclusion**

We have devoted many staff hours to the work of helping you get the most out of school lunch dollars—to simplify and give flexibility. We know you have done the same. We are aware of the pressures you face as you work to feed the nation's school children.

I must say, and I think you'll all agree, 1981 was a stimulating and challenging year for us all. And no doubt, 1982 will be more of the same.

Thank you.

I will be happy to address any questions you may have.

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# Testimony

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## **Statement by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Economics J. Dawson Ahalt before the House Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research and Environment, March 16, 1982**

As a representative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the committee to discuss the activities of the national climate program in meeting the climate and weather needs of the nation. As you know, the agricultural sector is highly dependent on weather developments. Moreover, the nation's weather services were an important part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1890 to 1940 prior to its transfer to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

During the half century that the weather services were a part of USDA, many basic programs that were developed supported the rapid growth of the world's most efficient agricultural production system.

Today's global agricultural production system is increasingly sensitive to weather events which can impact upon many diverse activities. This impact influences vulnerability of crops and livestock to sharp temperature swings, periods for planting and harvest, the ability to use aircraft for crop spraying and dusting, field conditions for large equipment to avoid compaction of soils, application of herbicides and pesticides and the scheduling of irrigation, to name a few.

The outlook for the water supply to be used for irrigation in the desert southwest is determined by monitoring snow-pack buildup during the winter months over the western mountains. In addition to the many short term producer decisions, climatic developments continue to impact longer term agricultural planning decisions. The latter work depends on maintenance and analysis of historic climatic data, a highly important information source for the agricultural community. This information is the starting point for all climate work. Without this data, understanding the frequency and full range of weather events to be expected in the future would be impossible.



Studies of the relationship between plant response and observed weather events during the last half century by USDA's agricultural research scientists provided a foundation for understanding the world's food production capability. Understanding the importance of weather events on crop and livestock output carefully evaluating the impacts are the basis for a joint agricultural weather facility created in the USDA in 1978.

JAWF is staffed by National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration meteorologists who monitor global weather events and interpret forecasts, and by USDA agricultural meteorologists who assess the weather events impact on U.S. and world crop conditions, growth and vigor, and crop yield potential as the growing seasons unfold. This effort relies heavily on a network of surface observational data—a part of the world meteorological organization's world weather watch and climate programs—and integrates meteorological satellite data as augmentation information to monitor general weather patterns in data sparse areas, particularly over the oceans and many portions of the tropics. The historic climatic data are invaluable as a reference in crop yield impact work.

We view the JAWF work as a prime example on how two weather-sensitive agencies can cooperate to ensure that information and assessment activities are enhanced, by appropriate integration of historical climatic and current meteorological data and forecasts.

While research is crucial to future development of new analytical tools, in times of tight budgets it is even more important to use the capability provided by past research efforts in addressing today's problems. We cannot neglect the basic ground truth data networks that have served us so well in the past for promises that high priced new technology will do the job better, until this is a confirmed fact. This confirmation must include a careful evaluation by the potential user agency.

New technologies must enhance the current applications and services available at a cost which is at least competitive with the current state of the art. This will require tough decisions on how to use the very limited resources available. USDA looks forward to cooperating with other agencies through the national climate program to ensure



available resources are directed toward achieving maximum return from NCP's activities.

Key legislative changes proposed for the NCP are: the enhanced role of the climate program policy board, elimination of the matching funds requirements of the intergovernmental program, adjusting the date for submission of annual reports and the frequency for revision of the five-year plan.

I believe these proposed changes in the NCP legislation presented in H.R. 5401 will enable USDA to better participate to achieve an improved climate program for the nation.

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# News Releases

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## USDA PROPOSES SCHOOL LUNCH REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, March 15—Local school lunch officials will be able to implement an extension of the "offer versus serve" school lunch plan to all grade levels, under regulations announced today by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Mary Jarratt.

Congress required the extension in the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981. Prior to that, the plan had been limited to middle school, junior and senior high students.

Under the "offer versus serve" plan, schools are required to offer full servings of five foods (meat, milk, bread and two fruits and/or vegetables) in federally-subsidized lunches, and students must take full servings of at least three choices. Students have the option of taking full, or sample portions of the other food items when offered.

Jarratt said the proposal does not reduce portion sizes but does allow local officials to require students below the high school level to take more of the five foods than the minimum of three.

She said the plan will give school food service personnel flexibility to use their creativity in ensuring that students eat balanced meals, while avoiding costly plate waste. "It's a proven plan, and that's what makes it so attractive," Jarratt said. "This common sense plan recognizes that some students will not consume all five foods that are served every day. Food that is thrown into the trash by a student costs money—money that could be used to feed another student."

Jarratt said that by offering an appealing selection, schools will help reach the lunch program's goal of providing one-third of a child's recommended dietary allowances. School menu planners are acutely aware that meals must be nutritious and appetizing to maintain student participation, she said.

The proposal will appear in the Federal Register later this week. Comments should be sent by May 14 to Stanley C. Garnett, school programs division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Alexandria, Va. 22302.

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## **USDA TO REQUIRE LEGBANDS ON PARROTS SHIPPED FROM CALIFORNIA**

WASHINGTON, March 16—Effective March 16, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials will require psittacines—parrots and related birds—shipped from California to be identified with leg bands as a means of controlling outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease.

John K. Atwell, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Service, said USDA inspectors will issue the official legbands and supervise their application on qualified birds.

Commercial shipments of birds released from privately owned, USDA-approved quarantine facilities should already be identified by leg bands applied when the birds entered quarantine. In addition to the leg band identification, the birds must be accompanied by a waybill, invoice or similar document signed by a USDA inspector.

Atwell said the new rules are being put into effect because illegally imported parrots have been implicated in nearly all recent outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease. This foreign disease is a highly contagious virus infection that is almost always fatal to chickens. Parrots can carry and transmit the disease for months without showing any sign of the disease.

Atwell said parakeets, budgerigars, lovebirds and cockatiels are exempt from the new banding requirements because they are bred domestically and have not been implicated in any recent exotic Newcastle disease outbreak. Personally owned pet birds accompanied by the owner are also exempt.

"One of our major problems in recent outbreaks—which in many cases appeared to stem from smuggled birds that brought in the disease—has been tracing bird movements and bird ownerships," Atwell said. "Identifying birds with leg bands will make it difficult to move smuggled birds in legitimate trade channels."

Atwell said the regulations specify California shipments because that state appears to be the principal channel for smuggled bird shipments to the United States. It is also one of the largest markets for parrot-type birds.



Some 95 percent of all the psittacine birds moved legally from California already meet the new banding rule because they are required to be banded when they enter USDA-approved, privately owned quarantine stations, he said.

Atwell said USDA will provide the legbands and apply them at no charge.

Since 1972, it has cost approximately \$72 million to eradicate outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease, he said. If these eradication efforts were not successful, it's estimated that losses to the poultry industry—and ultimately, consumers—could exceed \$400 million annually.

The new rules become effective on an interim basis upon publication in the Federal Register, which is scheduled for March 16.

The public has until May 17 to submit comments on the banding rule. Comments should be sent to the deputy administrator for veterinary services, APHIS, USDA, rm. 870 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, Md., 20782.

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## **IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL EFFICIENCY SEEN AS KEY JOB OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 16—"Promoting and enhancing efficiency in agricultural production is the key role science and education will fill," Anson R. Bertrand, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's director of science and education, said today.

Speaking at the annual convention of the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association in Little Rock, Ark., Bertrand said the Reagan administration is deeply concerned about the problems facing the dairy industry.

Bertrand told the 400 dairy farmers attending the convention that Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has called for a public symposium March 22-23 in Kansas City to gather information and suggestions for dealing with the dairy surplus and the mounting federal costs.



Bertrand said that even though the dairy industry is currently faced with overproduction, research must continue.

"We have to do research that helps us avoid the enormous losses to which agriculture is susceptible—losses from disease, insects and other pests; and losses that occur through the whole production, processing and marketing system. These losses take an astounding number of dollars out of the pockets of farmers," he said.

Among current research efforts Bertrand cited are:

- basic research studying the widespread, persistent and complex disease, mastitis;
- genetic engineering to produce vaccines, such as the one developed last year for foot-and-mouth disease;
- research to improve reproduction efficiency and genetic qualities of livestock;
- feed utilization and nutrition studies;
- new uses for dairy products.

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## **DESSERT SEED CO., INC., PAYS \$18,000 TO SETTLE SEED ACT CASE**

WASHINGTON, 16—Dessert Seed Co., Inc., an El Centro, Calif., seed company has paid \$18,000 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to settle a case involving shipments of seed alleged to be in violation of the Federal Seed Act.

The case was settled in an agreement between the company and officials of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The company neither admitted nor denied the charges.

Thomas H. Porter, an official of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the case involved shipments of Bermudagrass, sugar beet and 25 kinds of vegetable seeds into Iowa, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin during 1977 through 1981. Seed shipped into New York was reshipped into Massachusetts where it was officially sampled.

Porter said the bulk of the vegetable seed was alleged to be falsely labeled as to the variety name. Violations also alleged—while not the



same for all shipments—were false labeling as to test date, kind and percentages of other crop seed and germination; and failure to test for germination within the prescribed 5-month period before interstate shipment.

The Federal Seed Act is a truth-in-labeling law designed to protect farmers and gardeners who buy seed. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service administers the act with the help of state seed agencies. Seed regulatory officials in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Texas, Pennsylvania and Utah cooperated with USDA in the investigations.

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## **FOREST SERVICE CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS**

WASHINGTON, March 17—Thousands of volunteers are needed to help maintain and improve America's 191 million acres of national forest system lands, R. Max Peterson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, said today.

"In an effort to reduce operating costs without reducing services, we are asking people to use their time and talents to help the Forest Service continue to provide visitors with a rewarding experience," Peterson said.

"Volunteers also can help improve the environment and contribute to the wise use of our natural resources by assisting in our research and cooperative forestry programs."

Peterson said volunteers perform a wide range of duties such as trail construction and maintenance. They also serve as campground hosts, wilderness rangers, guides and lecturers, research assistants, tree planters and clerks.

"Since the passage of the Volunteers in the National Forests Act in 1972, the use of volunteers has played an increasingly important role in our work," Peterson said. "The number of Forest Service volunteers has increased by 700 percent since 1972. Last year, the work accomplished by 16,445 volunteers was valued at \$8.3 million."

Although volunteers do not receive monetary pay for their work, Peterson said, there are other compensations which are even more important to many people.



"The work hours are flexible—volunteers can work on a full-time, part-time, or even one-time basis—the jobs are both interesting and educational, and they get a great deal of personal satisfaction in knowing they have helped make our world a little better place to live for all of us," he said.

Major qualifications for the volunteers are good health and a willingness to work, and people with special skills are particularly welcome. There's no maximum or minimum age, but a volunteer under age 18 needs written consent from a parent or guardian.

Volunteers are not federal employees, but they do receive legal protection as well as insurance for work-related injuries. In some cases, they can be compensated for travel, food and lodging expenses.

Entire organizations may volunteer, Peterson said. For instance, through the "Adopt-A-Trail" program, an organization can volunteer to maintain and improve a trail in the national forests.

Roads and wildlife habitats are among other national forest resources and facilities available for "adoption."

Persons interested in becoming a Forest Service volunteer should contact their nearest Forest Service office. Additional information on how to become a Forest Service volunteer also may be obtained by writing:

Forest Service Volunteer  
Box 37483  
Washington, D.C. 20013

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## **NEW JERSEY FIRM RECALLS CORNED BEEF IN 10 STATES**

WASHINGTON, March 17—A Newark, N.J., meat firm is voluntarily recalling an estimated 57,000 pounds of cooked corned beef from delicatessens and similar outlets in 10 states after U.S. Department of Agriculture tests confirmed the presence of salmonella, a food poisoning organism.

The corned beef is marketed by Best Provision, Inc., under the "Best's" brand name, in Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, New



Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin. No other products produced by this firm are affected by the recall.

Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said the cooked corned beef being recalled is fully cooked and sliced. It is sold by delicatessens as opposed to prepackaged and labeled products sold in supermarkets.

"Whole corned beef rounds and briskets normally sold in supermarket meat cases—rather than deli counters—are uncooked and must be further prepared in the home," he said. "These uncooked products are not involved," he said.

Houston said the salmonella was discovered when USDA tested samples of the cooked corned beef taken during a routine inspection at the firm. Samples from other plants across the country are also being analyzed by USDA as part of an intensive surveillance program prompted by recent outbreaks of salmonella traced to these products.

"No cases of illness from eating cooked corned beef produced by Best have been reported," Houston said. "The recall was initiated because potentially contaminated product had been distributed to delicatessens and other outlets normally handling this type of product. The firm is cooperating fully in removing the product from the marketplace."

The cooked corned beef was produced between Feb. 15 and March 15. Consumers who believe they may have purchased some of the product should contact the outlet where they bought it. Best is notifying its distributors to return the suspect product.

The salmonella organism causes salmonellosis, a foodborne illness that can cause people to become ill with stomach cramps, nausea and dizziness. The organism can be prevented by proper handling and destroyed by thorough cooking.

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## **LANDMARK AGRICULTURAL REFERENCE WORK PUBLISHED**

BELTSVILLE, Md., March 17—A major reference work on the extensive literature resulting from agricultural and biological research of



the last 25 years now is available to scientists, librarians and writers, Richard A. Farley, acting director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library, said today.

"The Guide to Sources for Agricultural and Biological Research," a 735-page volume, contains 5,779 citations. It was prepared under the sponsorship of the National Agricultural Library and published by the University of California Press.

"This guide should prove indispensable for those seeking information from the large and complex literature of this important field," Farley said.

Editors of the guide were J. Richard Blanchard, librarian emeritus, University of California, Davis, former USDA reference librarian, and Lois Farrell, librarian, Agricultural Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Contributors to this reference work describe and evaluate several thousand sources of information in a variety of formats. The reference collections of numerous research libraries, including the U.S. National Agricultural Library, the Library of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in London, the Food and Agricultural Organization Library in Rome, the libraries of the Universities of California, Minnesota, and Texas A&M were consulted for source materials. Over three years were needed to complete the bibliographic research.

Although the guide's primary emphasis is on research in agriculture and biology, many related subjects such as ecology, forestry, meteorology and human nutrition are covered in detail. An earlier guide—Literature of Agricultural Research—was published in 1958 by Blanchard.

An unusual feature of the new edition is the material on the use of online data base files in the chapter entitled "Computerized Data Bases for Bibliographic Research." An appendix on acronyms and abbreviations and comprehensive author, title and subject indexes keyed to item number are included.

Priced at \$47.50, the work may be ordered directly from the University of California Press, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

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## **FEEDING PROJECTS FOR LOW-INCOME ELDERLY ANNOUNCED**

WASHINGTON, March 17—Demonstration food programs for low-income elderly persons are planned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at two locations beginning this summer, according to Assistant Secretary Mary Jarratt. The sites will be announced this spring.

The purpose of the demonstration will be to examine various food packages and delivery systems for providing supplemental foods to the low-income elderly. The project will tie into existing commodity supplemental feeding program sites which serve low-income pregnant women and small children.

"We are especially concerned about low-income elderly persons who are incapacitated through sickness and transportation problems," Jarratt said. "Even during these times of financial restraint, we cannot overlook our commitment to improving food delivery systems to those who are truly in need."

Jarratt said selection of the demonstration sites will be based on proposals submitted from the existing 26 sites that already participate in a supplemental food program for infants, children and low-income mothers. Some of the largest programs are in Detroit, Mich., New Orleans, La., Memphis, Tenn., San Francisco, Calif. and the District of Columbia.

"We anticipate the proposals will include provisions for direct distribution to the homes of the elderly," Jarratt said. "We intend to emphasize use of voluntary private and local resources for food package delivery. This will provide a unique opportunity for government and the private sector to join hands in addressing the particular problems of low-income elderly shut-ins."

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## **SECOND ACREAGE REDUCTION SIGNUP REPORT SHOWS 25.4 MILLION ACRES ENROLLED**

WASHINGTON, March 17—Farmers more than doubled their base acreage enrollment last week in the 1982 feed grains, rice, upland



cotton and wheat acreage reduction programs, according to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

Block said he is pleased at the sign up participation which as of March 12 had enrolled 25.4 million acres of base acreage, increasing from 11.2 million reported March 4. However, Block once again urged farmers to take a serious look at the acreage reduction program as it affects their operations and sign up before the April 16 deadline.

Base acreage enrolled through March 12 includes 11.5 million under the feed grain program, 756,000 under the rice program, 1.8 million under the upland cotton program and 11.3 million under the wheat program.

Farmers who sign up to participate in the acreage reduction programs for upland cotton, rice and wheat agree to reduce their base acreage of these commodities by at least 15 percent while feed grain producers will voluntarily reduce their base acreage by 10 percent. The acreage taken out of production will be devoted to a conservation use.

Only program participants are eligible for program benefits such as Commodity Credit Corporation loans, target price protection and—for wheat and feed grain participants—eligibility for the grain reserve.

The 1982-crop national average loan rates are: barley, \$2.08 per bushel; corn, \$2.55 per bushel; oats, \$1.31 per bushel; sorghum, \$2.42 per bushel; wheat, \$3.55 per bushel; rice, \$8.14 per hundredweight; upland cotton, \$0.5708 per pound.

Reserve loan rates are: barley, \$2.37 per bushel; corn, \$2.90 per bushel; oats, \$1.49 per bushel; sorghum, \$2.75 per bushel; wheat, \$4.00 per bushel.

Target prices for the 1982 crops are: barley, \$2.60; corn, \$2.70; oats, \$1.50; sorghum, \$2.60; wheat, \$4.05; rice, \$10.85; upland cotton, \$0.71.

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## **AGRICULTURE DAY: FOOD AND RESOURCE DEMANDS POSE NEW RESEARCH CHALLENGES**

WASHINGTON, March 17—"World food needs and population growth will pose an ongoing challenge to agricultural research in the



years ahead," Terry B. Kinney, Jr., administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, said today.

Kinney's projection came as part of the second nationwide observance of Agriculture Day tomorrow.

The observance, for which Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block is honorary chairman, recognizes U.S. agriculture's success in providing the world's most abundant and high quality food supply.

"Agriculture will have to find ways to keep pace with ever-increasing food demands in the future," Kinney said. "And that means agricultural production will rely as never before on basic research and technology to overcome barriers such as soil losses on farm and range lands.

"Agricultural research is helping American agriculture hold its position as the nation's number one industry, the employer of one out of every five people and as the key leader in world exports," Kinney said.

One of the major research objectives, he said, is "to apply agricultural technology to solve the problems arising from soil deterioration, loss of farmland and water shortages. These problems may well take the lead over energy as crisis issues during the next two decades."

At the same time, Kinney said, current agricultural research is placing new priorities on use and improvement of soil, water and air resources, plant and animal production efficiency, and basic research. He said agricultural research is now working on new frontiers in such developments as integrated pest management and natural growth regulators for plants as well as photosynthesis and nitrogen fixation advances.

Kinney outlined some current studies and developments.

#### **Soil and water conservation management:**

- A new furrow system for irrigation called limited irrigation/dryland, which prevents the wasting of rainfall or irrigation water. The system will help farmers increase crop production despite limited water supplies and variable rainfall in the southern Great Plains.

- Use of a microwave detector to determine soil moisture conditions as deep as six inches below the surface of the earth. The new moisture meter will allow farmers to make maximum use of irrigation



and provide valuable drought information to service agencies such as USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

- A new, low-cost small concrete dam to take the place of rock outcroppings missing in streambeds and reduce stream channeling and save soil. The dams, when spaced down a stream, act like a series of steps to limit the power of water to cut away stream banks. The Soil Conservation Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are using the dams successfully.

- Work on an automated irrigating system, laser beam applications for leveling land and other techniques to reduce salt loads in Colorado's Grand Valley. About 10 tons of salt accumulate yearly for each acre irrigated. The Agricultural Research Service is cooperating in this project with USDA's Soil Conservation and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation.

### **Crop production:**

- Breeding of cold resistance into orange trees, using Australian and Chinese relatives of citrus. One line of the new hybrids withstood 14-degree temperatures that damaged orange groves in Florida. Hybrids also could make trees drought- and disease-resistant.

- Opening of the Northwest Germplasm Repository near Corvallis, Ore., the first of 11 plant repositories to be established for clonal germplasm—the hereditary material in plant cells. The repositories will be the source of new crop varieties in the future and will help researchers develop a wider variety of crops that withstand disease, pests and drought.

- New uses of okra as a substitute for coffee, cheese and margarine, and wider use as a vegetable source of vitamins A and C, protein, calcium and iron. Okra, which also can be used to make paper, could become significant as a hot weather crop in the temperature zones and tropics.

- Synthesis of a natural plant accelerator called brassinosteroid to help stimulate seedlings, especially weak seedlings, to get off to a better start and, overall, to spur crop yields. Two of the new brassinosteroids already have increased vegetable yields significantly in field and greenhouse tests.



— Transfer of a gene for a storage of protein from a French bean seed to tissue culture of the sunflower plant, marking the first time a single gene had been transferred from one plant species to another. This is a basic step toward using genetic engineering to improve plant disease and insect resistance, enhance nutritive content and extend nitrogen fixation.

### **Animal production:**

— Discovery of a substance coming from either a fungus or barley that lowers cholesterol concentrations in chickens, pigs and rats. In chicks, barley components increased growth by 20 percent and the feed conversion ratio by 8 percent while suppressing by 20 percent the cholesterol in the animal's blood.

— Development of a vaccine against foot and mouth disease in animals, the first genetically engineered vaccine. The vaccine will help ensure a reliable supply of meat in the future and will protect the food supply in countries where this costly disease occurs.

— Resistance of chick embryos against Marek's disease, for the first time, with successful vaccination through egg shells three days before hatching.

— Studies indicating that lambs, when exposed to more light, grew faster and reached market weight sooner. An artificial mating season is created by exposing lambs to 16 hours of light compared with 8 hours of regular daylight. It is estimated that with this system, lambs could be marketed every 22 weeks.

### **In the area of crop protection:**

— Introduction of a laser beam technique for measuring droplets in pesticide sprays. The device measures hundreds of thousands of droplets a minute—faster and more accurately than previously possible. Such measurements are critical in designing effective spray equipment and improving environmental quality controls.

— Studies indicating that two species of parasitic wasps from India.

— Monitoring of pesticide residues and the rate at which they disappear in plants, soil, water and air. Glass chambers or "microecosystems" simulate conditions in the field for evaluating pesticides at different stages of a crop's growth.



— Mass-rearing of wasps as natural enemies of food- and forest-damaging caterpillars. A tiny wasp, *Trichogramma*, that is mass released in the People's Republic of China and Russia, is being hatched in artificial eggs for mass-rearing and possible use as a biological pest control agent.

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## **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY TO MARK 20TH ANNIVERSARY**

BELTSVILLE, Md., March 18—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library, biggest of its kind in the free world, will celebrate its 20th anniversary March 23.

On that day in 1962, Orville L. Freeman, then secretary of agriculture, officially designated the USDA Library as the National Agricultural Library, recognizing it as the largest U.S. government library after the Library of Congress.

Since then, the number of volumes contained in the National Agricultural Library has grown to more than 1.7 million.

"Major functions of the library today are to coordinate a national agricultural sciences information network and to serve as the prime resource for land-grant and other university and college libraries across the nation.

"It is a leader in the use of computerized information," said Richard A. Farley, director of the library.

March 23 also marks the 120th anniversary of the founding of the USDA library and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Associates National Agricultural Library, Inc.

The National Agricultural Library began as the Departmental Library in 1862. The organic act establishing USDA that same year says, "it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Agriculture to acquire and to preserve in his Department all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain by means of books and correspondence."

Orlin J. Scoville, president of the Associates NAL, Inc., a non-profit organization composed of friends of the library, will present certificates



of appreciation for service to past directors and officers during the program at the library Tuesday evening.

Also on the agenda is an international potluck buffet to be served from 6 to 8 p.m. The buffet will include international foods prepared by the library staff.

Among guests expected are Richard E. Lyng, deputy secretary of agriculture; Anson R. Bertrand, USDA director of science and education; Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, and Martin M. Cummings, director, National Library of Medicine.

The 14-story library is located just off the Capital Beltway on U.S. Highway 1.

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## **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK STILL GOOD TO EXCELLENT FOR WEST**

WASHINGTON, March 18—Water supplies should be good to excellent for much of the West this summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported today.

Norman A. Berg, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service, said melting snow should provide enough runoff this coming spring and summer to meet the region's needs. About 75 percent of the West's water supply comes from snowmelt.

Of all the West's water, some 83 percent is used for agriculture. Heavy February rains and warm temperatures melted some of the Pacific Northwest's snowpack. Some local flooding resulted, but damage was not severe.

Reservoir storage is near normal for all states. Most reservoirs in the Columbia basin are expected to fill.

Berg gave this outlook by state:

Alaska: Snowpack is poor in the Brooks range and south central areas, but near normal elsewhere.

Arizona: Heavier than normal February storms improved runoff forecasts in many areas. The Salt River now is 150 percent of normal, but the San Francisco River is only 42 percent of normal.



California: Snowpack is below normal in the north and normal to above normal in the south. Water supplies should be adequate.

Colorado: Snowpack conditions remain above normal and water supplies should be adequate.

Idaho: The panhandle received good February moisture. Streamflow should be near normal in the north and above normal in the south.

Montana: Streamflow is forecast to be near normal in nearly all areas except the Judith-Musselshell, Big Horn and Tongue drainage areas which are below normal.

Nevada: A mid-February storm added snow at higher elevations, but lower elevations received less than expected. Prospects remain good for adequate water supplies.

New Mexico: Precipitation during February ranged from normal to nearly four times normal. Streamflow will be as much as 120 percent of normal. Reservoir storage is excellent.

Oregon: Streamflow forecasts range from above normal to much above normal. Most reservoirs are expected to fill during the spring.

Utah: Water supplies are forecast to be good to excellent. Streamflow will be normal to above normal.

Washington: Streamflow will be normal to above normal for much of the state. Snowpack ranges from 95 to 115 percent of normal. Reservoirs are expected to fill by early summer.

Wyoming: Runoff is forecast to be normal to above normal for most of the state. Below normal runoff is forecast for the north end of the Big Horn. Only about 15-20 percent of the season remains for snowpack accumulation.

**This outlook is based on the assumption that spring weather will be near normal.**

The Soil Conservation Service surveys snowpack and monitors snowmelt at 1,600 sites and forecasts streamflow at nearly 500 locations throughout the West each month from January through May. USDA specialists, in cooperation with the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, analyze the data and issue monthly forecasts of runoff and water supplies.

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